



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

980 Ninth Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724

July 16, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

Document #: S43245

Mr. Jeff Morales, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Kris Balaji, Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Morales:

SUBJECT: Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) Amendment No. 12 to the 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)

We have completed our review of Amendment No. 12 to StanCOG's 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated July 14, 2003. StanCOG adopted this amendment via Resolution on June 11, 2003.

This amendment was requested by StanCog to change the funding source for the Regional Rideshare Program from STIP to CMAQ. The Regional Rideshare Program includes an element "park and ride lease costs" that may be operational in nature and/or not eligible for Federal Funding under our CMAQ guidelines. The FHWA will continue working with StanCOG to facilitate a final determination of eligibility for the park and ride lease costs. We therefore accept the amendment in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR Part 450 except for the aforementioned element. We find that this amendment was developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. section 134, and as applicable, section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. §1607). We acknowledge the "Bus Maintenance Facility", "Support Equipment and Vehicle Purchase", and "Re-power 9 Gillig Buses" projects submitted as part of this amendment were administratively approved by the State.

Based on our review, the changes proposed to the 2002/03 FSTIP require no new regional emissions analysis for a conformity determination because projects included in this amendment are the type of projects listed in 40 CFR 93.126 or 93.127 as being exempt from regional emissions analysis requirements. We find that FTIP Amendment No. 12 conforms to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 and in accordance with January 2, 2002, guidance *Revised Guidance for Implementing the March 1999 Circuit Court Decision Affecting Transportation Conformity* and the Environmental Protection Agency's May 14, 1999, guidance *Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision*.

This amendment is approved in accordance with the procedures outlined in the FHWA/FTA Memorandum of Understanding, dated March 8, 1996, on single mode FTIP amendments. This letter also constitutes approval and inclusion of StanCOG's FTIP Amendment No. 12 into California's 2002/03 – 2004/05 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

Sincerely,

For
Gary N. Hamby
Division Administrator